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| 10/808,982 | 03/25/2004 | Carl A. Caspers | 55508-296809 | 7038 |
| 25764 7590 05/06/2010 FAEGRE & BENSON LLP PATENT DOCKETING - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY 2200 WELLS FARGO CENTER 90 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-3901 | | | | |
| EXAMINER | | | | |
| WILLSE, DAVID H | | | | |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| 3738 | | | | |
| NOTIFICATION DATE | | DELIVERY MODE | | |
| 05/06/2010 | | ELECTRONIC | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/808,982

Applicant(s)

CASPER, CARL A.

Examiner

David H. Willse

Art Unit

3738

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 February 2010.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SI/22)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1-11-10

In the Information Disclosure Statement of January 11, 2010, the Beil thesis cannot be considered because a complete copy (37 CFR § 1.98(a)(2); MPEP § 609.04(a), section II) was not provided: pages 18-21 are missing.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 21-27, 31, 33, 36, and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Slemker, US 5,702,489, which discloses a flexible liner comprising a non-porous material (column 5, lines 53-58) adapted to cover the residual limb portion received in the cavity of a single socket **12** and **28** (Figure 1; column 2, lines 29-30; column 4, lines 9-11 and 30-52) and a vacuum source (column 6, lines 28-30) in fluid communication with spaces **36** and part of interior **24**. *(Note: The residual limb portion need not be fully received in the cavity in order to meet the limitations set forth in present claim 21 and others: column 6, lines 26-30. And even after the silicone liner and residual limb are completely inserted into the socket, there must exist a small, time-varying space within socket interior **24** occupied by the requisite (partial) vacuum retaining the prosthesis on the residual limb during ambulation: abstract, last line; column 3, lines 40-45; column 4, lines 24-26; column 5, lines 55-58. Moreover, the Slemker apparatus is*

capable of receiving a residual limb portion having localized concavities and/or protuberances such that distal spaces are innately formed directly adjacent to the inner socket surface and the donned silicone liner.) Regarding claim 22, attention is directed to column 1, lines 20-21; column 3, lines 63-65; etc. Regarding claims 27, 31, and others, reference is made to column 6, lines 24-25.

Claims 28-30, 32, 34, 35, and 38-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slemker, US 5,702,489. Regarding claim 28, a motor-driven pump would have been immediately obvious from the hand-held and electronically controlled embodiments contemplated at column 6, lines 24-25. Regarding claim 30, a battery would have been obvious in order to perform donning and doffing at remote locations. Regarding claims 34 and 39, an integral annular seal outwardly projecting from the silicone liner would have been an obvious modification in order to facilitate the donning of the prosthetic limb and to better maintain suction. Regarding claim 40, porous suspension sleeves were well known in the art at the time of the present invention and would have been obvious in order to supplement the securement between the residual limb and the socket.

The Applicant's remarks have been considered and are adequately addressed in the grounds of rejection presented above.

All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114

(MPEP § 706.07(b)). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dave Willse, whose telephone number is 571-272-4762 and who is generally available Monday through Thursday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Corrine McDermott, can be reached on 571-272-4754. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

**/David H. Willse/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3738**